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1942



Annual Report



OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

OF THE

Urban Sanitary Authority

OF

EAST DEREHAM,
Norfolk.

EAST DEREHAM :

PRINTED BY G. ARTHUR COLEBY, BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER, MARKET PLACE

1943

EAST DEREHAM URBAN DISTRICT

INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH for 1942

Sec. A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area, (in acres)	...	...	...	5,313
Population, (Census 1931)	...	...	...	5,643
Number of inhabited houses, (end 1942)	...	...	...	1,890
Rateable value	...	...	...	£25,835
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£100/4/10

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		Totals	M	F
Live Births	{ Legitimate	110	57	53
	{ Illegitimate	5	2	3
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population :		...	...	17.55
Still Births	{ Legitimate	2	—	2
	{ Illegitimate	...	—	—
Rate per 1,000, (live and still), births :		...	...	17.0
Deaths	...	86	45	41
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population :		...	...	13.12

It is satisfactory to record that, for the third year in succession, there were no deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other puerperal causes.

There was a considerable number of cases of Whooping Cough in the District during the last three Quarters of the Year. 32 cases were notified but there were no deaths.

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	59
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			45
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			400
Deaths from Cancer, (all ages)	...	...	11
„ „ Measles, (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough, (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea	...	...	Nil

The Birth Rate, (17.55 per 1,000 pop.), is 1.14 higher than in 1941 and 1.7 above the National average, (15.8). This is the highest rate recorded since 1925, though it is 21 years ago since the birth rate was over 20 per 1,000.

There were 7 deaths of infants under one year of age, 4 more than in the previous year, the rate per 1,000 live births being 59 as compared with 24 last year. The rate for England and Wales was 49. 30 years ago the infantile death rate was three times as great as in recent years.

The Death Rate, (13.12 per 1,000 pop.), is 3.19 higher than in 1941 and 1.5 per 1,000 more than the National average, (11.6). 43% of the deaths were of persons over 70 years of age.

Sec. B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Public Health Staff of the District Council consists of a part-time Medical Officer of Health and a Sanitary Inspector. The latter also carries out the duties of Engineer, Surveyor and Markets' Inspector.

An emergency laboratory service is available at Cambridge.

The County Isolation Hospital at Dereham has accommodation for 96 beds. 11 cases from the Area were admitted during the Year.

A Food Decontamination service has been formed consisting of 10 fully trained and equipped men with a central decontamination depôt.

An emergency Mortuary Squad of 6 men has been trained and equipped and a central Mortuary established. Arrangements have been made with the surrounding districts for mutual aid.

A voluntary Typhus Squad has been equipped and trained in co-operation with the Norfolk County Council and Downham R.D.C. The squad has demonstrated its capabilities in exercises and is available to deal with any outbreak in the County.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Good progress has been made in immunising children between the ages of 1 and 15 years. The figures of those immunised and estimated child population are now as follows:

Estimated Child Population		Immunised	
Under 5	5—15	Under 5	5—15
500	1010	1941	118—(24%)
		1942	102—(44%)
			814—(80%)
			35—(84%)

It will be seen that the percentage of children immunised under 5 years had nearly doubled by the end of the year, but it is disappointing that the proportion of young children immunised still lags so far behind the figures of those over five. The necessity for immunisation during the susceptible ages between 1 and 5 years cannot be too strongly emphasised.

Sec. C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
 OF THE AREA.

(1) WATER.

The average daily consumption was 124,000 gallons, an increase of 5·3% over the previous year. This compares with a consumption of 59,600 gallons in 1929, and 94,488 gallons in 1939. The average daily pumping hours was 17·8 as compared with 18·3 last year.

The increasing demand continues to cause anxiety concerning the present supply and storage accommodation. The District Council is in communication with the Ministry of Health on the matter.

Several new lengths of piping have been installed in the rising mains of the well.

Several complaints were received about the taste of chlorine in the water. Admittedly the chlorinating apparatus has not functioned efficiently, the water tasting and smelling of chlorine when the demand is high and also in the vicinity of the Waterworks. A new chlorinating apparatus will probably be necessary.

The Ministry of Health has intimated that water supplied from wells must be chlorinated in an emergency. A.R.P. Wardens have been supplied with chlorine liquid for the purpose which is kept at the Wardens' Posts.

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE,

The inflow to the Sewage Works still continues to increase in volume and strength. Satisfactory effluents were obtained during the Summer and early Autumn but deterioration occurred during the Winter months. One notable defect is the lack of sufficient area of sludge drying beds and, to remedy this, two acres of land to the South of the Works have been purchased by the District Council. Access to the new beds is being prepared by the construction of a bridge across the stream and the site is being cleared.

(3) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are 642 pail closets in the District, 293 of this number being in the central portions of the Town. Of the latter number, 201 are within 100 feet of the sewer mains.

(4) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

16 privy vaults have been emptied during the Year and 1,784 dustbins emptied weekly. The refuse dump continues to be maintained in very good order.

A comparative survey of scavenging costs for the District compared with that of other urban districts in the County has shown that the District provides the second most economical service in Norfolk.

(5) SWIMMING BATH.

The Swimming Bath, which was taken over by the District Council in 1938, was open during the Summer months of the year.

(6) SUMMARY OF DUTIES CARRIED OUT BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Houses and premises inspected	...	1548
Nuisances abated	... ..	387
Houses disinfected	... ..	32
Disinfections of bedding	..	21

(7) SALVAGE.

In spite of labour and transport difficulties, the collection of salvage material has proceeded satisfactorily. The Salvage Committee has been able to allocate various sums of money to charitable organisations as, thus far, income has exceeded expenditure.

2 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons more cardboard and waste paper were collected than during last year and there has been an increase of nearly 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of rags and $\frac{1}{2}$ ton of bones. There has also been an increase in the amount of ferrous and non-ferrous metals collected.

The total amounts collected during the Year are as follows :

		Tons	Cwts.
Paper and cardboard	...	91	15
Rags	... ..	4	3
Bones	... ..	2	8
Rubber	... ..	1	17

The results obtained reflect great credit upon the Honorary Organising Secretary and his fellow workers.

Sec. D. HOUSING.

Number of houses erected in the District during the Year :

(a) By the Local Authority	..	Nil
(b) By other bodies or persons	...	1

Summary of houses erected by the District Council up to the end of 1942 :

Housing Acts, 1919, 1923 and 1924	64
Housing Acts, 1930, 1936 and 1938	80
	<hr/> 144 <hr/>

8 of the houses built under the 1938 Act were for the relief of overcrowding.

Sec. E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply* :—

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 :

(i) Number of registered purveyors of milk	11
(ii) Number of registered cow-keepers and wholesale purveyors of milk	... 21

Milk, (Special Designations), Orders, 1936 & 1938 :

(i) Number of licensed producers of Accredited Milk	8
(ii) Number of licensed purveyors of Accredited Milk	4

Milk Samples :

38 samples of milk have been taken for testing. 26 were sent to the County Laboratory for the Methylene Blue test, 10 of which failed. 12 samples were sent to Dr. Sheather at Chorley Wood to be tested for tubercle bacilli, one of which proved positive.

(b) Meat and other Foods :—

Slaughtering is now carried out at a central slaughter-house under Government control.

Condemned as unfit for human consumption :

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & L	Pigs
<i>Tuberculosis :—</i>					
Whole carcasses	3	10	—	—	6
Organs or parts	168	179	—	—	22

Other diseases :—

Whole carcasses	—	2	1	4	—
Organs or parts	29	153	2	53	6

Miscellaneous :—

13 lbs. bacon	944 lbs. beef	272 tins foodstuffs
202 lbs. veal	100 lbs. pork	200 lbs. oatmeal
180 lbs. tinned meat	72 lbs. tomatoes	

45 cases of Scabies came to the notice of the Authority during the year.

Diphtheria: The two cases notified were inmates of the Public Assistance Committee's Children's Home in Dereham. The fatal case had not been immunised. The recovered case had been immunised and had a mild form of the disease.

[illegible]

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1942.

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 15	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15 — 25	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1
25 — 35	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
35 — 45	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
45 — 55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	2	1	3	1	4	—	1

One of the fatal respiratory cases died in St. Andrew's Hospital, Thorpe, Norwich and had not been notified.

The number of new cases continues well below the average, but there was an increase in the number of deaths. During the ten years before the War the average number of notifications was 12·3 and deaths 3·7.

At the end of the Year there were 56 cases of Tuberculosis on the District Register, 19 respiratory and 37 non-respiratory.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

The number of evacuated persons resident in the Area at the end of the year was 250, as compared with 476 at the end

of 1941. The problem of billeting has not lessened materially as accomodation in the Town is required for so many temporary residents other than those evacuated under the Government Scheme.

There are 17 premises requisitioned for billeting purposes, two being communal billets.

Generally speaking, the requisitioned premises have been kept in good order, though a few complaints have arisen. The local helper visits all billets each month and this service is much appreciated by all concerned.

BRITISH RESTAURANT.

This restaurant continues to function well and provides well cooked meals for a large number of persons. The Organiser and her voluntary staff are to be congratulated on the excellent manner in which this restaurant is conducted.

EMERGENCY MATERNITY HOME.

The County Emergency Maternity Home, near Downham Market, provides accomodation for evacuated persons.

With the existing shortage of domestic accommodation and help in the home, there is a great need for increased institutional accommodation for maternity cases generally.

NORMAN E. D. CARTLEDGE,

Medical Officer of Health.

